(li) Malaysia	28.8.95—-29.8.95
Singapore	30.8.95—31.8.95
Australia	2.9.95—4.9.95
(iii) London	16.9.96—19.9.96
Frankfurt	22.9.96—24.9.96

The detailed tour notes in respect of all these tours were submitted by ED (Vigilance), STC and were presented to the Board of Directors.

Companion free travel facility was availed by ED (Vigilance), STC in Sept. 1996 as per the scheme extended by the airlines. ED (Vigilance), STC while availing free companion travel facility in Sept. '96 travelled by Air India. The advice of Deptt. of Public Enterprises and Deptt. of Personnel & Training have been requested by the Ministry.

Fact Finding Report in respect of import of Newsprint from Russia

2306. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ED (Vigilance) of STC in his fact finding report dated 6th June 1994, in respect of import of Russian newsprint enclosed a copy of the Customs print-out stating that the same was from a sister agency;

(b) if so, the details of such agency together with its complete particulars and the official status;

(c) if not, the source of the printout giving its complete particulars and the official status of the agency; and

(d) the details regarding copies of communication exchanged between the sister agency and ED (Vigilance)/his nomine and/or receipt of payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Since Special Unit, CBI was holding parallel inquiries into the deal simultaneously to the on-going factfinding inquiry into the newsprint deal, a copy of the print-out was procured from them by way of sharing of information. The case is still under investigation by CBI.

(d) No formal communication was exchanged.

Working of CMD, STC

2307. SHRI NACMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during late 1993 the then CMD, STC on the recommendations of the then Director (Vigilance) STC, lifted the business ban/ blacklisting on M/s. Mayar International and imposed a business ban on another firm M/s. Anika International; and

(b) the complete details of such ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) STC has intimated that the decision about business ban on M/s. Mayar Marketing Consultants was communicated to them vide its letter dated 29.1.92 under intimation to the Indian branches. The status of business ban on them presently is a subject matter of investigation in the Criminal Case registered by CBI on 5.1.96.

During May, 1992, a case was registered by the CBI against Shri B.K. Shroff, former Director (Finance) of STC, M/s. Finnpap, Finland and M/s. Anika International, New Delhi regarding placing of an order at an exorbitant rate on M/s. Finnpap during December 1991 by exercising 'option' without floating tender.

Pursuant to registration of the above case, the blacklisting of M/s. Anika International, New Delhi and their principals M/s. Finnpap, a Finnish concern, one of STC's long-term suppliers of Glazed Newsprint, was approved by the then CMD on 8.9.92 on the recommendations of the then Director (Vigilance), STC.

Coincidentally, STC's decision about blacklisting was communicated to M/s. Anika International and M/s. Finnpap on 30.9.92, on which date, STC had also floated a tender for import of Glazed Newsprint for the first time, after decanalisation of import of Newsprint through STC w.e.f. 1.4.92. V hen they did not get STC's tender, they filed a Civil Suit in Delhi High Court, requesting therein that they may be allowed to participate in the aforesaid tender and STC's letter dated 30.9.92 regarding blacklisting them, be quashed. As per the legal advice, STC withdrew its letter of 30.9.92 and allowed them to participate in STC's tender for import of Glazed Newsprint. They, in turn, withdrew their

Suit.

Again on the basis of legal advice and as per- procedure, show cause notice dated 25.11.92 was sent to M/s. Finnpap and M/s. Anika International calling upon them to show cause within 15 days as to why STC should not discontinue further business dealings with them. The reply dated 10.12.92 given by M/s. Anika International was discussed in STC and STC noted that there was no need for any further correspondence in this regard. Subsquently, the closure report submitted by CBI vide its letter dated 11.10.94 in the matter was accepted by STC.

Dumping of PTA

2308. DR. Y. LAKSHM1 PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been made and investigation has been initiated into alleged dumping of PTA (Purified Terephthalic Acid) originating from Thailand, Indonesia and Republic of Korea;

(b) whether domestic manufacturer of PTA used to get high profit and now as petrochem industry has gone through a global upswing their margins have come down;

(c) whether this lc-'.-'er cost of raw materials in textile industry will benefit the consumer in any way; and

(d) the results of the investigation initiated as well as other related steps taken by Government in the matter for the benefit of the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) On the basis of a petition received from the domestic industry, investigation has been initiated on 20.12.96 against alleged dumping of PT V (Purified Terephthalic *Add)* originig form, Thailand Indonesia public of Koren. The Designated Authority cppointed under the Customs Tarifl Act considers all aspects of the case including the margins of dumping, injury to the domestic industry and the causal link between the two. The submissions made by the user industries as well as the importers are also considered by the Designated Authority before arriving at a decision. The quasi-judicial order of the Designated Authority is published in the Official Gazette which is appelable before the Customs Excise Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal.

Sugar Mills proposed to be set up during Ninth Plan

2309. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Government for setting-up sugar mills in the country;

(b) the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up by Government during the Ninth Plan,

(c) the steps taken to clear the proposals pending with Government with regard to the establisb.r.sii' of sugar nulls; and

(d) the details thereof?